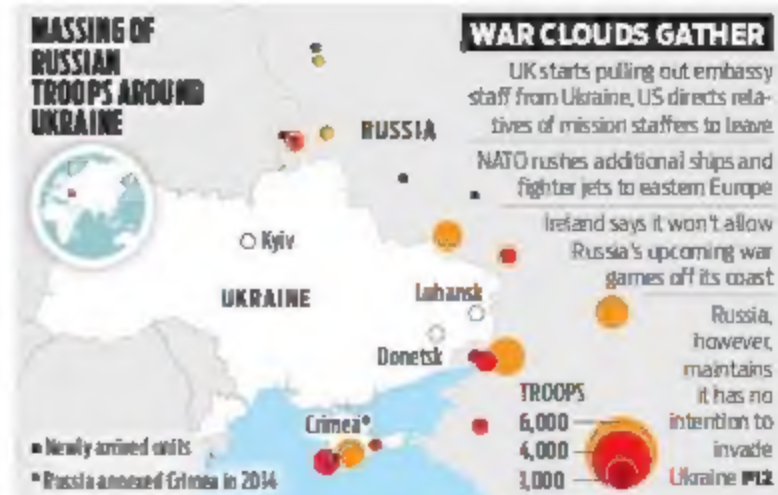




THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • TUESDAY • JANUARY 25, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 22 • LATE CITY EDITION

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Just 9.4% seats to Yadavs in SP's first list for UP

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

UNDER attack from the ruling BJP for distributing party tickets 'under the table' but not making the names public, the Samajwadi Party on Monday released a list of 159 candidates for the first three phases of polls in Uttar Pradesh on February 10, 14 and 20.

As expected, party chief Akhilesh Yadav is the candidate from Karhal in Mainpuri district. While sitting MLA Nahid Hasan has been re-nominated from Kairana, the SP's Rampur MP Azam Khan has been fielded from his pocket borough of Rampur. Both Hasan and Azam Khan are in different jails.

The party again fielded Azam Khan's son Abdullah Azam from Suar in Rampur. Abdullah's election was declared null and void by the Allahabad High Court in the previous Assembly (2017) on charges of forging age documents.

Having woven a bouquet of alliances with smaller OBC outfits for the first time to woo the non-Yadav OBCs, the SP walked the talk by giving them 48 seats (30%). Interestingly, just 15 (9.43%) in the list of 159

are Yadavs. However, the party treaded cautiously in signalling the minority vote bank and drawing Dalits by giving both Muslims and SCs a respectable chunk of 31 (19.5%) and 29 (18.23%) seats, respectively. Besides, nine Brahmins and Banias each as also seven Thakurs have been fielded.

One name that stands out in the list is of Umar Ali, the son-

in-law of Maulana Ahmed Bukhari, the Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid in Delhi. Umar will contest from Behat on the SP ticket. The other big name is Shivpal Yadav, uncle of Akhilesh and chief of Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party-Lohia. Shivpal will contest from his traditional seat and Yadav family bastion Jaswantnagar in Etawah district on the SP symbol.

The party has accommodated 18 turncoats — 7 from BJP, 9 from BSP and 2 from Congress. BJP defector Dharam Singh Saini has been fielded from Nakur though the import from Congress, Imran Masood, badly wanted it. They have since patched up. Another BJP defector Swami Prasad Maurya failed to get a seat for his son Utkrish from Unchahar.

NDA's first Muslim nominee

Apna Dal's Haider Ali Khan (32) became the first Muslim candidate fielded by the NDA in the UP polls. He hails from the Rampur royal family that is a with the Congress. He got a Congress ticket but defected to Apna Dal | P10

Black Monday wipes out ₹9 lakh cr investor wealth

RAM SANGAL @ Mumbai

INVESTORS in Indian stock markets lost a whopping ₹9.07 lakh crore on Monday as key indices fell for the fifth straight day in tandem with the meltdown in global shares.

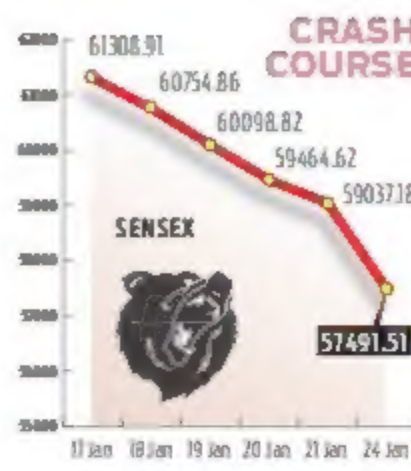
The Sensex slipped 1545.67 points or 2.6% to end at 57491.51 points on Monday, while the broader Nifty shed 468 points to close at 17149.10, led by foreign institutional investors selling ₹3,752 crore worth of shares

and domestic investors buying just ₹75 crore of shares.

Some buying at the lows helped the Sensex to close 507 points above the day's low while the Nifty closed 151 points above its intraday low.

Such was the ferocity of the fall that all of the Sensex's 30 constituents ended in the red and just two of the Nifty 50 shares closed in the green.

The FIIs have sold shares worth ₹12,543 crore in the calendar year to date and ₹42,534



crore in the fiscal year so far.

Relentless selling by foreign portfolio investors amid a rise in global inflationary expectations and fears of a rate hike by the US Fed is behind the 1200-plus fall in the Nifty since January 17. The combined loss of investors over the past five days is a massive ₹19.5 lakh crore.

Global markets are likely to remain choppy this week in view of rising geopolitical tensions between Russia and US-led Nato over Ukraine.

STATUS CHECK

Herbivore report to be released with tiger census

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE tiger census, which is going on in Karnataka since Saturday, is crucial as it will not only indicate the population of the national animal and conservation efforts, but also present an assessment of mega herbivores.

Apart from the tiger numbers this time, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change will also release a report on the estimate of elephant and for the first time of Indian gaur (bison) populations.

Herbivores, especially gaurs, play a crucial role in tiger assessment. A forest department official said that gaurs are a prime prey for tigers and their population estimation gives an indication of the tiger population and vegetation. The forest habitat, vegetation and conservation measures can be assessed by knowing gaur population, he added.

"Three years ago, the population of gaurs was on the rise and healthy herds with aggressive bulls and young calves could be sighted. It was a good sign as sighting a gaur had become a matter of chance till then," he said. P5



EXPRESS READ

Home isolation cases don't need -ve report

Bengaluru: A discharge summary or Covid-19 negative test report is not needed for all those who are out of home isolation after seven days, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta said on Monday. P3

B'lu airport records highest cargo handling

Bengaluru: Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport has recorded highest-ever cargo tonnage in 2021. It has processed 406,688 metric tonnes, seeing a growth of 28.6% over 2020. P2

Young achievers

Bal Puraskar awardees from south



Bomma appoints dist ministers, keeps B'luru

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

WEIGHING the pros and cons, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday appointed district in-charge ministers but kept Bengaluru city for himself ahead of the BBMP polls, likely after April. Bommai has made the appointments nearly six months after assuming charge as chief minister. He is likely to keep the momentum going with several similar exercises, but in consultation with the party's central leadership, sources said.

The ministers have not been given charge of their home districts in what is regarded as a strategic move to curb bickering with the party locally. It is also said that it is to check some min-

isters from switching parties ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls and not to allow them to build a clout of their own on their home turfs.

Interestingly, Revenue Minister R Ashoka and Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J C Madhu Swamy have been ignored. While Ashoka's exclusion has raised many eyebrows, Madhu Swamy's soured relations with Tumakuru leaders, including Lok Sabha member GS Basavaraju, proved costly for him, sources said.

A video of Basavaraju whispering to Urban Development Minister Byrathi Basavaraj that "if Madhu Swamy continued as district minister, BJP will not win even a single seat in the district" went viral and reached the party high command as well, the sources said. P4

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